

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:MGWYGANT:MR

APPROVED BY AF/W: JLLOUGHRAN

AF/EPS: LMWHITE

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R 072142Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003093

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, ENRG, PINT, DM

SUBJECT: MOBIL REACTION TO DAHOMEY NATIONALIZATIONS

REF: STATE 279156; COTONOU 1947

1. MOBIL REP. IN NEW YORK, M.W. MCENIRY, RESPONDING TO EARLIER DESK OFFICER QUERY, TELEPHONED AF/W JANUARY 6 TO DISCUSS MOBIL POSITION REGARDING DAHOMEY NATIONALIZATIONS. MOBIL PRESENTED CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION AND RELATED PAPERS TO MRGD ON JANUARY 2. MCENIRY SAID IN CONFIDENCE, CLAIM TOTALED 2 MILLION DOLLARS. HE ADDED MOBIL HEADQUARTERS IN ABIDJAN FELT DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION HAD BEEN UNREASONABLE AND UNJUSTIFIED.

2. MOBIL ABIDJAN ADVISED IT HAD ANTICIPATED NATIONAL-IZATIONS FOLLOWING MRGD'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT TO MARXISM-LENINISM. THUS FAR, ACCORDING TO MOBIL ABIDJAN, MRGD APPEARS TO BE FOLLOWING ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL LAW PROCEDURE WITH RESPECT TO NATIONAL-IZATIONS. ABIDJAN OFFICE SEES LITTLE HOPE FOR RECEIVING
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EARLY COMPENSATION BECAUSE OF STATE OF DAHOMEAN TREASURY.

3. MCENIRY WONDERS WHAT ROLE STATE DEPT MIGHT PLAY IF
THERE IS NO AMICABLE SOLUTION TO COMPENSATION NEGOTIATIONS.

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HE WAS AWARE OF COTONOU BRIDGE DAM LOAN AND WONDERED IF
USG MIGHT BRING PRESSURE ON MRGD USING AID LOAN FOR
LEVERAGE. DESK OFFICER INFORMED MCENIRY THAT STATE
DEPT WOULD FOLLOW COURSE OF COMPENSATION NEGOTIATIONS
VERY CLOSELY AND WOULD FOLLOW ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES AND
PRINCIPLES IN EXERCISING ITS RIGHT OF PROTECTION FOR
US PRIVATE INTERESTS. KISSINGER

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